

The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens

Garden Harvest Breakfast Celebration –August 13th

Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, August 13th for our annual Harvest Celebration to celebrate the garden harvest. We will gather from 9 am to 10:00 am at the picnic tables by the garden entrance. No cost to participate, but we ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought in the past include: bakery, a hot breakfast dish, fresh fruit, veggies, etc.



Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee provided. No need to RSVP. We will have a short garden meeting at approximately 9:45 am. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. I welcome your suggestions. I hope you can come! I hope you can come! If weather looks "iffy" on the day of the Harvest Celebration, call Ann's phone at 262-548-7788 and listen to the out going voice mail message.

Common Problems

Powdery Mildew on Vegetables - Have you recently noticed a white powdery substance on your some of your plants? The humid conditions have made conditions favorable this to occur. For some plants it is merely a cosmetic problem while for other plants it can cause leaf loss. Learn more <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/powdery-mildew-vegetables/>.



Cucumber Beetles - Perhaps you've seen this pest in your garden, the striped and spotted cucumber beetle is a common pest of vine crops (e.g., cucumber, squash, pumpkin, watermelon) that can cause severe damage to roots, leaves, flowers and fruits, as well as interfere with pollination, leading to reduced fruit set. Learn more at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/cucumber-beetles/>.



Tighten Water Connections When Disconnecting Hoses

Please tighten connections when disconnecting your hoses from the water tanks. **Do not tug on your hose.** Review the information on our Water at the Gardens page on our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/Water/.

If there are any water leaks, **contact us ASAP.** Lisa's number is 262-548-7775. Leave a message on voicemail anytime. Lisa's number is also on the bulletin board at the garden.



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Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

Do You Have a Gardening Question?

Have a gardening question? Contact the Extension Horticulture Helpline for Waukesha County by phone on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon at 262-548-7779 or by email at uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov. Feel free to include photos in your emails. This is a FREE service.



There's Still Time to Plant Vegetables - Days to Harvest!

Did you get a late start on your garden? Wondering if it is too late to plant? Do you have space for more vegetables? With an average frost date of October 15 (give or take) for Southeastern Wisconsin, there's still time to plant vegetables on August 1st or prior if the seed packet has a "days to harvest" date of 60 days or less. This information can be found on the back of most seed packets. For example, if you plant seeds of beets, bush beans, summer squash, cucumber, or peas by August 1, you should enjoy a great early fall harvest of vegetables. As a rule, September 1 is the last date for planting seeds of leaf lettuce, spinach, and onion sets. See Extension's "Planting Schedule" at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/globalassets/uw-extension/horticulture/vegetable-garden-planting-schedule.pdf>



Plant Waste Piles

There are several plant waste piles located at the garden. Please place plant waste in the established plant waste pile areas rather than starting new piles. Some piles are still small. Look for these piles before you dump your weeds at the garden.

Extension Gardening Resources—Great Source of Information

The UW–Madison Division of Extension offers vegetable gardeners a number of resources to learn how to grow vegetables, as well as how to prevent and control diseases and insects. Browsing our publications, website, and fact sheets will help you be successful in achieving gardening success! Checkout the following sites:

- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/vegetables/>
- <https://pddc.wisc.edu/search-fact-sheets/>

Picnic Area/No Grilling Allowed

The picnic tables near the entrance to the garden are for you to use. Feel free to pack a lunch and picnic at the garden, but remember there is no grilling allowed at the garden.

Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov and/or Ann at ann.wied@wisc.edu. Our office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday—Friday. You can call Lisa at 262-548-7775. We cannot view missed calls, so please leave a message!

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WAUKESHA COUNTY